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REMARKS

In view of the following remarks, reexamination of the present application is respectfully requested. Claims 22 and 23 are currently pending, Claims 18-21 and 39-40 having been allowed. In response to the Office Action, Claim 22 has been amended. The amendment to Claim 22 finds support throughout the Specification and the Drawings and no new matter has been added. Accordingly, it is believed that the claims now define patentable subject matter over the prior art cited by the Examiner and notice to such effect is requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claim 22 was rejected in the Office Action as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,087,319 to Linkletter. The Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. However, Claim 22 has been amended to more clearly indicate the advantageous aspects of such embodiments of the present invention.

The Linkletter '319 patent discloses a method of and means for sheet transfer to and embossing at a reeling station. A continuously advancing tissue paper is separated from a Yankee dryer 7 by a creping device 9 and then received on a supporting run 13 of an endless fabric conveyor and embossing belt 14 which continuously supports and transports the web W to the reeling station 11. The transporting run 13 begins close to the creping doctor 10, over a lead-in roll 15. While being transported to the reeling station 11, the web travels under a reeling core or spool 23 which presses down into the conveyor belt 14 sufficiently to maintain good traction. When the web W reaches the reeling station 11, the web W normally travels part way, such as about 90°, around the reel roll or drum 21, whereafter the web W is automatically threaded onto the reel spool 23. Upon completion of the automatic threading, the reel spool 23 is moved over the top of and into contact with the reel drum 21. The reel spool 23 is then continuously held in engagement with the reel drum 21 as the reel spool 23 is lowered to secondary rails 29, whereafter the web W is wound into a parent roll 30, while the parent roll 30 is pressing against the conveyor 14. The continuous thrust of the parent roll 30 toward and against the fabric belt 14 running over the reel drum 21 effects continuous embossing of the web W through the parent roll 30 winding (Col. 3, line 7 – Col. 4, line 16). Upon the parent roll 30 reaching the desired size, it

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is shifted away from the reel drum 21 and the leading end portion of the web W is severed. The Linkletter '319 reference further states that the web "is wound into a parent roll pressing against the conveyor and embossing belt running over the reel drum and thereby embossing the web in the roll/drum nip" (Abstract).

In contrast, amended Claim 22 of the present invention is directed to apparatus for a dry end of a papermaking machine having a Yankee dryer for drying a paper web. Such an apparatus comprises a rotatably driven reel spool for winding the paper web creped from the Yankee dryer. A belt runs in a loop about a plurality of guide rolls, wherein a first of the guide rolls is positioned proximate the dryer and spaced upstream of a growing paper roll wound on the reel spool. A second of the guide rolls is positioned adjacent the paper roll and downstream thereof such that a portion of the loop of the belt between the first and second guide rolls extends from a location proximate the dryer to the paper roll, the portion of the loop thereby stabilizing the paper web as the paper web travels from the dryer to, and is wound on, the paper roll. The Linkletter '319 reference, however, describes a reel spool 23 that is moved from a position upstream of the reel drum 21, after the web W is automatically threaded thereon, to a position downstream of the reel drum 21. The web W is wound onto the reel spool 23 and into a parent roll 30 when the reel spool 23 is downstream of the reel drum 21 and supported by secondary rails 29. Thus, the Linkletter '319 reference discloses a reel drum 21 that supports the parent roll 30 while embossing the web in the reel/drum nip. The Linkletter '319 reference, therefore, does not describe a second guide roll that is positioned adjacent to and downstream of the growing paper roll wound on the reel spool such that a portion of the loop of the belt between the first and second guide rolls stabilizes the web as the web travels from the dryer and is wound on the paper roll, and such that the belt supports the paper roll, as now claimed in Claim 22 of the present invention. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that Claim 22, as amended, is not anticipated by the Linkletter '319 reference.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claim 23 was rejected in the Office Action as being obvious over the Linkletter '319 reference in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,593,545 to Rugowski *et al.* As previously discussed, amended Claim 22, upon which Claim 23 depends, is not anticipated by the Linkletter '319 reference. Thus, the Applicant submits that Claim 23 is patentable over the Linkletter '319 and Rugowski '545 references.

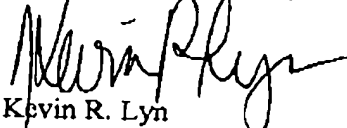
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In summary, neither the Linkletter '319 nor Rugowski '545 reference, either separately or in combination, teaches, suggests, or provides motivation for the embodiments of the present invention as now claimed in Claims 22 and 23. Accordingly, in view of these differences between the Applicant's invention and the Linkletter '319 and Rugowski '545 references, it is submitted that embodiments of the present invention, as defined by Claims 22 and 23, are patentable over the Linkletter '319 and Rugowski '545 references cited in the Office Action. As such, Claims 22 and 23 are believed to be in condition for immediate allowance.

In conclusion, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicant submits that all claims now pending are in condition for immediate allowance. Accordingly, notice to such effect is requested at the Examiner's earliest opportunity.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may be otherwise provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required therefor (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin R. Lyn
Registration No. 42,818

Customer No. 00826
ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Raleigh Office (919) 862-2200
Fax Raleigh Office (919) 862-2260

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Version with Markings to Show Changes Made:

22. (Twice Amended) An apparatus for a dry end of a papermaking machine having a Yankee dryer for drying a paper web, the apparatus comprising:
a rotatably driven reel spool for winding the paper web creped from the Yankee dryer;
and
a belt running in a loop about a plurality of guide rolls, a first of the guide rolls being positioned proximate the dryer and spaced upstream of a growing paper roll wound on the [spool] reel spool, a second of the guide rolls being positioned adjacent the paper roll and downstream thereof such that a portion of the loop of the belt between the first and second guide rolls extends from a location proximate the dryer to the paper roll, said portion of the loop stabilizing the paper web as the paper web travels from the dryer to, and is wound on, the paper roll.